

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 November 1967



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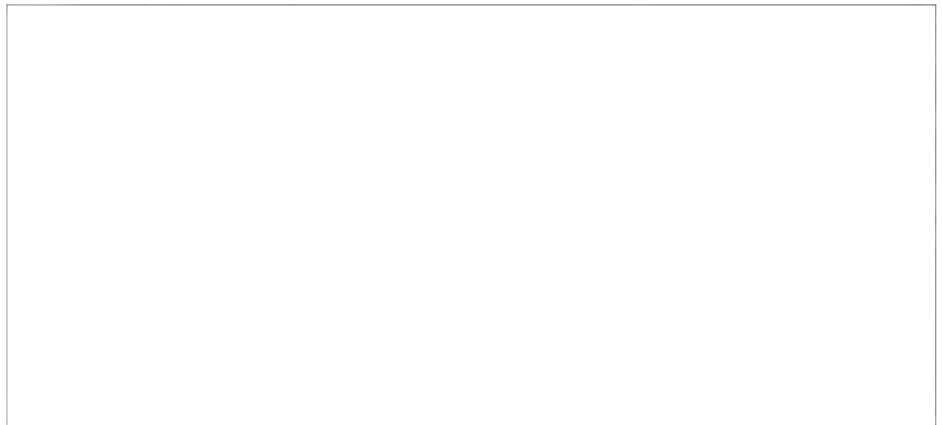
DAILY BRIEF
2 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Congo

An excited Bomboko called in Ambassador McBride in the middle of last night to say that Congo army units and "mercenaries" were fighting along the Katangan-Angolan border. Fragmentary reports indicate that there has in fact been some fighting, but apparently only in one small area.

This could be the beginning of the "invasion" mercenary leader Denard has been dreaming up. The "mercenaries" could, however, merely be Angolan nationalists chased across the border by the Portuguese50X1

2. Nigeria



3. South Vietnam

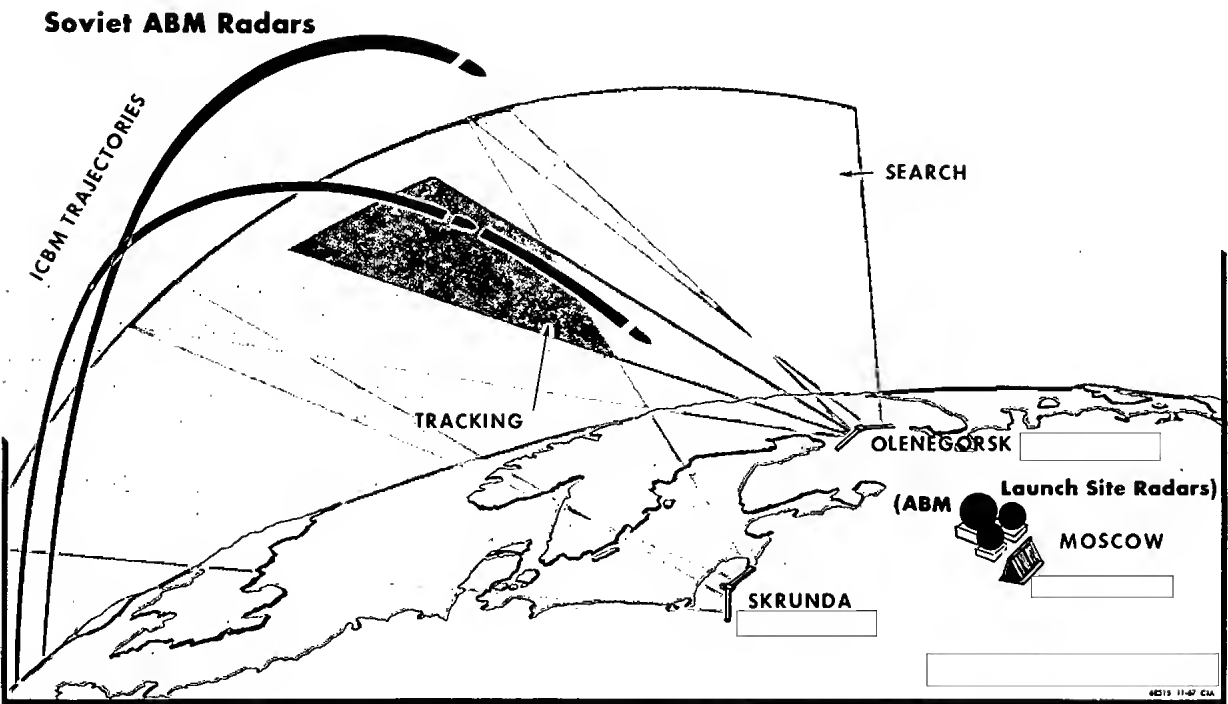
The Cambodians are protesting the decision taken by Saigon in mid-October to close the Mekong River to convoys bound for Phnom Penh. These convoys are made up of ocean-going ships and deliver a good share of Cambodia's imports.



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On Monday the South Vietnamese defense minister said the river would be opened shortly, but we think the Vietnamese are stalling.

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4. Panama

Four of the eight parties in President Robles' ramshackle coalition are most unhappy over his choice of a presidential candidate for next May's election. They are threatening to form an alliance with opposition leader Arnulfo Arias, a shift which could produce an Arias victory. Robles may yet try to salvage the situation by settling on another candidate.

All this infighting has forced the canal treaty issue into the background, where it will probably stay during the final months of Robles' administration.

5. Soviet Union

The Soviets continue to move forward on the Moscow antiballistic missile defense system. The second of the two large early warning and tracking radars in the northwest USSR apparently became operational last month (see map).

These radars could detect and track intercontinental ballistic missiles coming over the North Pole from the US, and feed the data to the Moscow complex. The full system could be operational by 1971, although it would have but limited effectiveness against a sophisticated ballistic missile attack.

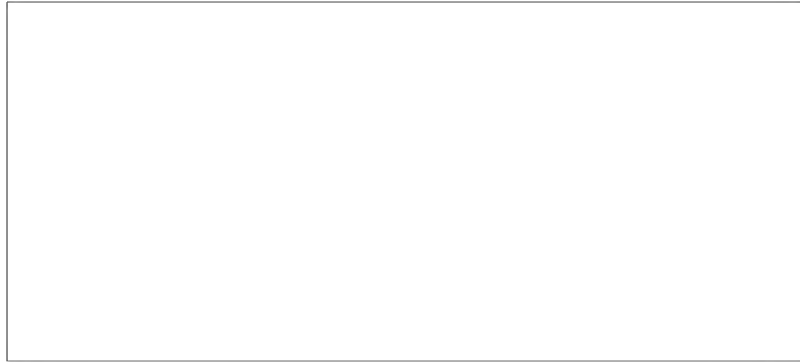
6. Soviet Union

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7. Egypt

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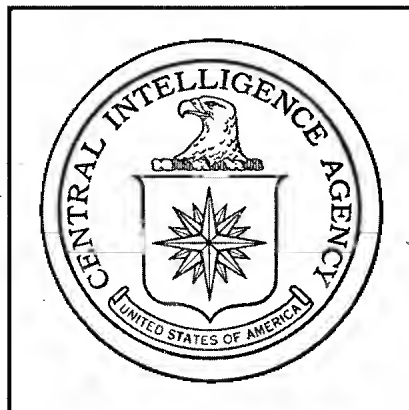
8. Ecuador

The central government is trying to remain aloof from the mounting disorders in Guayaquil, which are aimed at forcing the mayor to resign. If the situation continues to deteriorate-- army tanks have already been called in to protect the municipal palace--it could cause some headaches for President Arosemena.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi VIPs to Moscow: The North Vietnamese fielded a top-drawer delegation for the Moscow anniversary celebrations. Headed by Party First Secretary Le Duan, the delegation included General Vo Nguyen Giap and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh. This group was met by Soviet brass at the airport-- Brezhnev, Kosygin, and President Podgorny.

All this display of senior personalities is intended to dramatize the close relations between Hanoi and Moscow. Behind the show of solidarity, however, have been some pretty clear indications that the North Vietnamese do not want to get caught in any Moscow-Peking crossfire during the festivities.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing significant to report.

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